



EDMOND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Empowering all students to succeed in a changing society

June 11, 2020

Dear EPS Families and Staff,

My purpose for writing today is to share the results of our 2020-2021 Back to School Planning Survey. Nearly 9,000 parents completed the survey providing crucial input that is already assisting us as we develop and refine our instructional plans for the upcoming school year.

As mentioned in my email last week, we are planning for a traditional school year, with reasonable changes to minimize the spread of COVID-19. We are also planning to offer a blended model of instruction, utilizing face-to-face teaching and distance learning, as well as a virtual learning model, in case the pandemic forces school closure or partial closure.

Key findings of the survey are as follows:

- 85% of respondents want their children to return to a traditional classroom setting with face-to-face instruction.
- If COVID-19 results in significant restrictions or partial shutdown of schools this fall, 90% of parents prefer that their child(ren) receive a blended model of instruction (virtual and face-to-face instruction) rather than just virtual instruction.
- 68% of parents will allow their child (ren) to eat lunch in a school cafeteria.
- A majority of respondents (76% middle school, 82% high school, 65% elementary school) will allow their child (ren) to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Parents' top concerns about distance learning are as follows: motivating students to learn, students' mental health, parent requirements to complete distance learning, and finding adequate childcare.

Despite an overwhelming desire for their child(ren) to return to a traditional classroom setting, the survey also revealed that parents are simultaneously worried about their child(ren) contracting the virus. Parents' top three safety concerns about their child(ren) returning to school are:

- Enduring restrictions (e.g. having to stay in the classroom for lunch)
- Being exposed to Coronavirus at school
- Falling behind academically
- Wearing a mask (elementary parents only)

While we can't be sure what the virus will bring in August and moving forward, we can assure you that every effort is being made to ensure a safe return to school. I am very proud of our employees who are working diligently to design and implement our back-to-school plans. The challenges brought about by this pandemic are significant and the variables that employees are juggling are immense, but please be assured that student and staff safety is at the heart of every decision.

Thank you for your patience and understanding at this time. Remember, if you have a question that cannot be answered by school site personnel, please reach out to us at Covid19@edmondschools.net. Until our next communication, please stay safe and take care of yourselves.

Sincerely,

Bret Towne

Superintendent

